



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY**

Minister for Small Business  
Minister Assisting on Deregulation and Public Sector Superannuation  
Minister Assisting on Tourism

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### **HELP AT HAND FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN ALBANY**

Small Business Minister, Senator Nick Sherry, on a visit to Albany, has urged local businesses to take advantage of the Australian Government's many support services to help them operate better in the modern environment.

Senator Sherry today visited the Small Business Centre Great Southern in Albany, which is helping local small businesses go online through the Australian Government's Small Business Online program.

"The Small Business Online program gives business owners in the Great Southern the chance to explore the possibilities open to them through the internet," Senator Sherry said.

"The Albany program has already assisted more than 350 local businesses develop and improve their e-business capabilities and the centre should be proud of this achievement.

"Most of these customers are micro-businesses, husband and wife teams usually, and their feedback has been extremely positive.

"It's no wonder the Albany Centre was named best regional Business Enterprise Centre for 2010 – and I congratulate them."

The Australian Government has provided \$42 million to 36 BECs around the country for the delivery of small business advisory services.

These BECs have provided more than 180,000 advisory services to small businesses - 48,000, or more than a quarter of them, to WA small businesses.

"The Australian Government's frontline assistance begins with the Small Business Support Line and it has already taken more than 2200 calls from WA since it started last year," Senator Sherry said.

"Its advisors all have small business backgrounds as previous owners or managers of small businesses.

"Call the support line - they are there for you and will know where you can find the appropriate assistance, including how to get involved with the online program."

Albany Enterprise Group Inc, known as Small Business Centre Great Southern, received \$170,118 in Small Business Online funding for its Great Southern Small Business 3 Steps from Local to Global Program.

“The Local to Global program aims to grow an online business presence using a measured 3-step program of seminars, workshops and one-on-one consultations,” Senator Sherry said.

“At the end of the program, business owners will feel confident enough to invest in creating or enhancing fully e-capable websites.”

To find a Small Business Online provider in your area, visit the [SBO providers list](#) at [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au).

“I’ve also just launched the web-based service Advisor Finder - a Google mapping tool that puts small businesses in touch with their nearest government funded advisor Australia-wide,” Senator Sherry said.

“It’s easy to use - just enter the type of advice you’re after and your location and Advisor Finder will find the advisory services nearest to you.”

For information on the Small Business Support Line call 1800 777 275 or visit [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au)

ALBANY

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